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Garcia Disappointed by Deferred Road Projects

Believes Whitmore Lake Road project should be completed

LANSING – Senator Valde Garcia, R-Howell, today expressed deep concern over the Michigan Department of Transportation plan to shift road dollars from Livingston County to other parts of the state. The latest example is the plan to defer work on the Whitmore Lake Road project.

“I am upset that the new Director of Transportation is using the Governor’s policy as an excuse to shift tax dollars from out-state to Detroit,” Garcia said. “I will do everything I can to ensure that the projects in my district are reinstated.”

The Michigan Department of Transportation recently announced that road projects previously scheduled in the Five Year Road & Bridge Program will be refocused under the new Preserve First Program.

Under the Preserve First Program road and bridge projects slated to begin this year will be deferred until 90 percent of state roads and bridges are in good condition, can be sustained, and additional funding is available.

“Governor Granholm said the Preserve First Program essentially follows the same policy Governor Engler used to evaluate road projects,” Garcia said. “If the new road plan is based on the same policies established over the past twelve years, why are the projects being changed? The previous process was objective, based on fair criteria and was non-political.”

The Preserve First Program has deferred the project to construct an alternative plan for the Whitmore Lake Road exit, the area located on M-59, from I-96 to Old US-23 in Livingston County.

Road and bridge projects around the state have been deferred to enact the Preserve First Program.